



Attorney Docket No. 0670-0251

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Junichi HAYAKAWA et al.
Serial No. 09/720,028
Filed: December 20, 2000
For: SPEAKER DIAPHRAGM

) Group Art Unit: 2837

) Examiner: K. Lockett

) CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

) I hereby certify that this correspondence is

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) Ashley M. Stamps

RESPONSE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Official Action mailed February 25, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 20, 2000, and November 26, 2003.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9 are pending in the present application, of which claim 1 is independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Paragraph 2 of the Official Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9 as obvious based on the combination of JP 2000-308178 and JP 64-067100. However, JP 2000-308178 is not available as prior art against the subject application. As noted in the *Notification of Acceptance of Application Under 35 U.S.C. 371 and 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495*, the present application has an International Application filing date of April 24,

2000, which is prior to the publication of JP 2000-308178, which was published November 2, 2000. Furthermore, it is noted that JP 2000-308178 is merely a publication of JP 11-114309, to which the present application claims priority. Therefore, JP 2000-308178 is not available as prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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